

2001: A SPACE  
ODYSSEY

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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BASED ON CONCEPTS  
FROM THE MGM/  
STANLEY KUBRICK  
PRODUCTION

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BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

HE SOUGHT TO ESCAPE  
THE FUTURE--THE  
MONOLITH SHOWED  
HIM THE WAY!!

COMICSVILLE IN

ENTER A STRANGE WORLD WHERE DREAMS--  
AND NIGHTMARES--COME TRUE! IN...  
**"NORTON OF NEW YORK!"**

0 4





STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** INKED AND LETTERED BY: **MIKE ROYER**

THIS IS THE MONOLITH!  
IT CAN REACH INTO THE PAST,  
PRESENT, AND FUTURE!  
--FOR YOU!... OR ME!!  
--FOR A JOURNEY UNHERALDED  
IN THE HISTORY OF MAN!

IT WILL MAKE A STRANGE  
FUTURE EVEN MORE  
BIZARRE, WHEN IT CHOOSES

## NORTON OF NEW YORK 2040 A.D.

I'LL  
FIND YOU,  
EARTHMAN!  
--AND WHEN  
I DO--!!

THIS HIDDEN  
LAIR IS ALIVE  
WITH HOSTILE  
ALIENS!

COLOR BY  
GLYNIS WEIN

ADMIRER  
BY  
ARCHIE  
GOODWIN

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IN THE YEAR 2040 A.D., COMICS HAVE REACHED THEIR ULTIMATE STAGE. THEY HAVE OFFERED AND BECOME A LIFE-STYLE FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF THE EARLY READERS. WHAT BEGAN WITH MAGAZINES, FANZINES, AND NATION-WIDE CONVENTIONS HAS CULMINATED IN A FANTASTIC INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PERSONAL LIFE OF THE AVERAGE MAN!

TAKE IT, VERMIN OF VENUS! THE MYSTIC WHITE ZERO ON MY FOREHEAD PREVENTS MY DETECTION-- UNTIL I AM UPON MY ENEMIES!

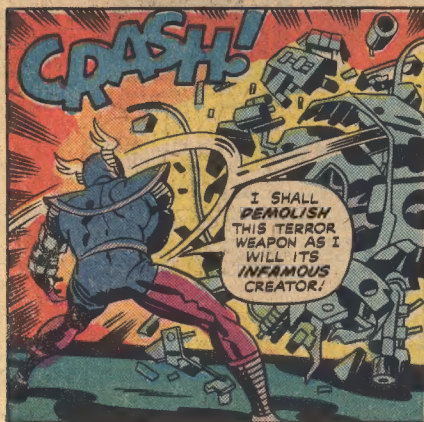
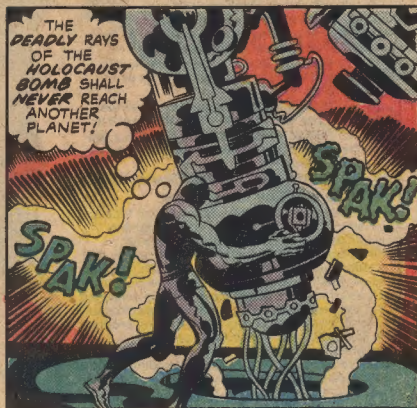
YOU HAVEN'T ESCAPED YET, WHITE ZERO! YOUR DOOM IS AT HAND!

BRAAPP!!

ZOP!

WAAAM!







IT IS EVER SO IN THE WORLD OF THE ADVENTURE HUNGRY. EVIL MUST BE CONQUERED AT ANY COST. JUSTICE, METED OUT IN FULL MEASURE, LEAVES NO DOUBTS THAT LIFE IS BALANCED AND SECURE...

HAHAHA! DEATH MASTER ALWAYS HAS A TRUMP CARD TO PLAY! WHEN YOU DESTROYED THE HOLOCAUST BOMB, YOU LOST THE ONE DEAREST TO YOUR HEART!

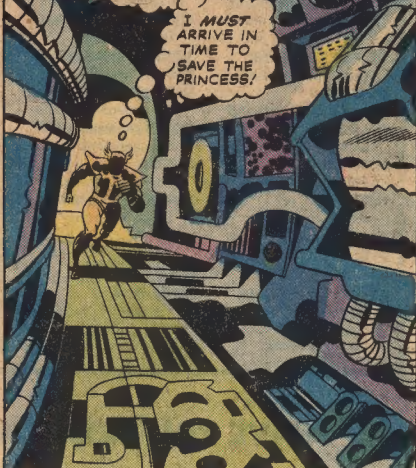
GALACTIC FIEND! YOU HAVEN'T WON, YET!



THE RACE AGAINST TIME IS INEVITABLE. EACH HERO STRAINS HIS EVERY FACULTY TO EFFECT THE LAST MINUTE RESCUE... IT IS A TIME-HONORED TRADITION!

MY MYSTIC WHITE ZERO SHALL LEAD ME TO THE VILLAIN'S LAIR--

I MUST ARRIVE IN TIME TO SAVE THE PRINCESS!

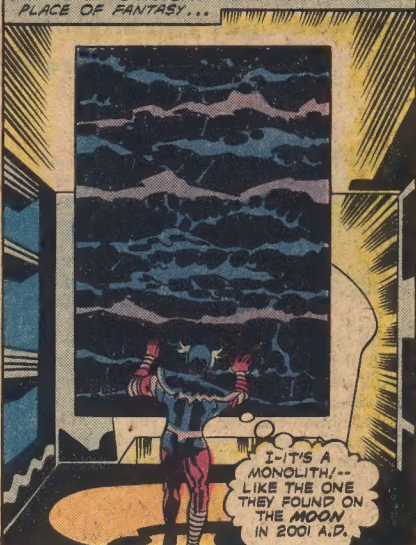


BUT, EVEN IN THE DIMENSION OF THE FANTASTIC, FATE IS PRESENT, WITH ITS SHARE OF SURPRISES. THE SUPERHERO WHO CALLS HIMSELF WHITE ZERO HALTS HIS HEADLONG RUSH TO CONFRONT THE UNEXPECTED!

W-WHAT IN BLAZES IS-- THAT!?



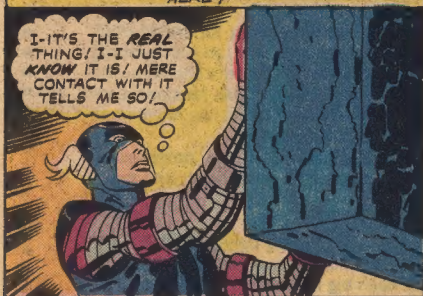
IF THERE IS A SCENARIO SOMEWHERE WHICH GOVERNS THE APPEARANCE OF THE MONOLITH, IT CANNOT BE FOUND ON EARTH. A GENUINE ALIEN INTELLIGENCE HAS BRIDGED SPACE AND TIME TO HOVER INSCRUTABLY IN A PLACE OF FANTASY...



I-IT'S A MONOLITH!-- LIKE THE ONE THEY FOUND ON THE MOON IN 2001 A.D.



THE WHITE ZERO'S HEAD BUZZES WITH QUESTIONS. HE KNOWS THAT THE SCALE MODEL OF THE MONOLITH WHOSE MYSTERIOUS APPEARANCES IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN RECORDED, IS SUPPOSED TO BE ON DISPLAY AT THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM. BUT, WHAT IS IT DOING HERE? HOW WAS IT BROUGHT HERE?



NEVER BEFORE HAS THE YOUNG MAN BEEN SO AWARE. NEVER BEFORE HAS THE ESSENCE OF HIS BEING SOARED OUTWARD AND EMBRACED THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE...



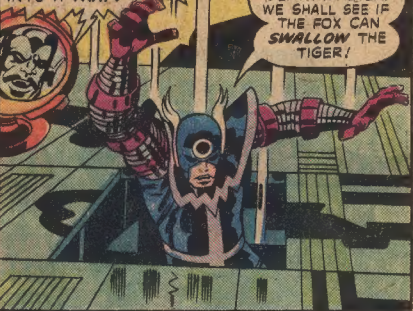
"MERE CONTACT" UNDERSTATES THE EXPERIENCE! COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE MONOLITH AND MAN TRANSCENDS THE SPOKEN WORD. THE WHITE ZERO IS SILENT--BUT HE IS IN UNION WITH THE SOUNDS OF THE STARS...



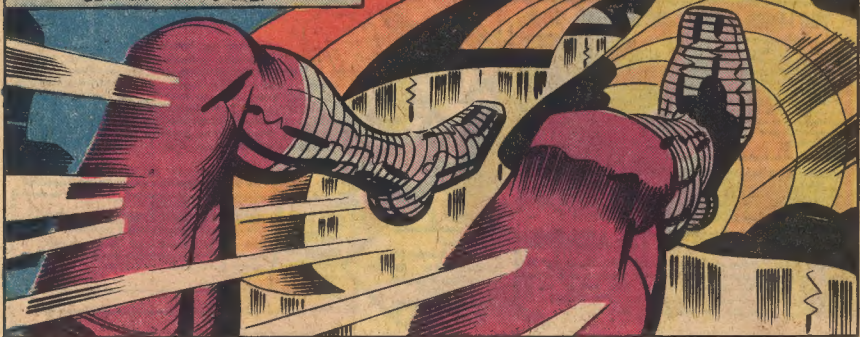
BUT, THIS INCREDIBLE REVERIE IS SUDDENLY BROUGHT TO AN ABRUPT END!

FOOL! YOU CHOSE TO DEFEY ME!--AND RUSHED INTO A TRAP!

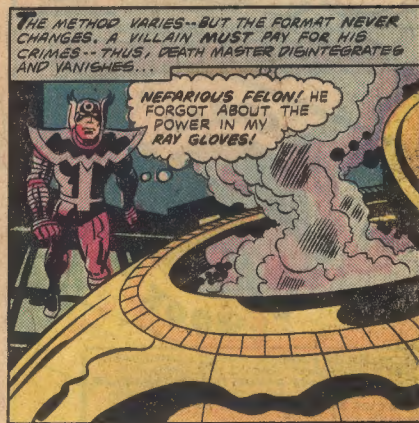
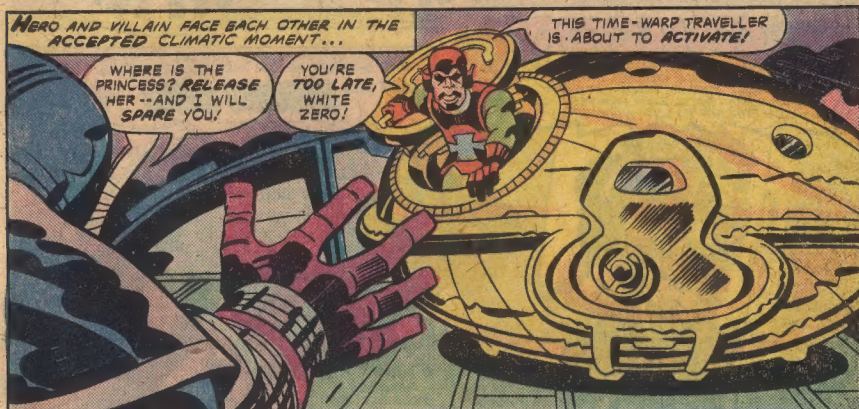
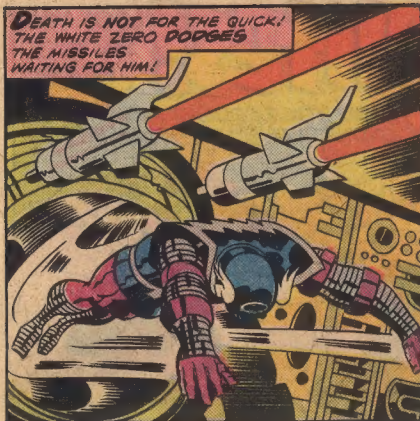
VERY CLEVER, DEATH MASTER! WE SHALL SEE IF THE FOX CAN SWALLOW THE TIGER!



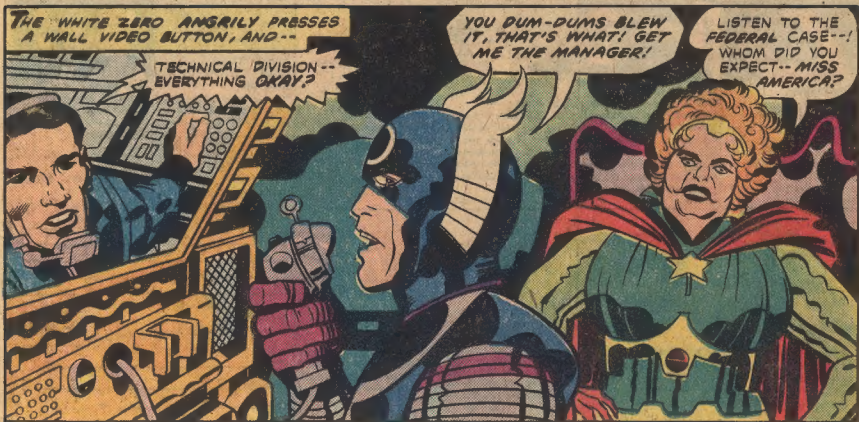
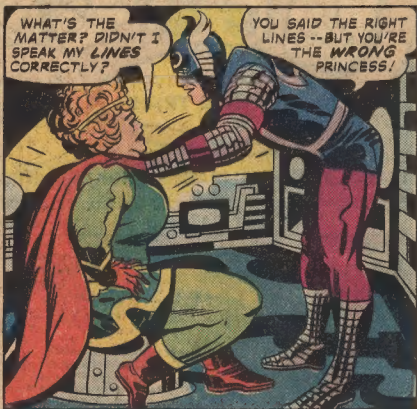
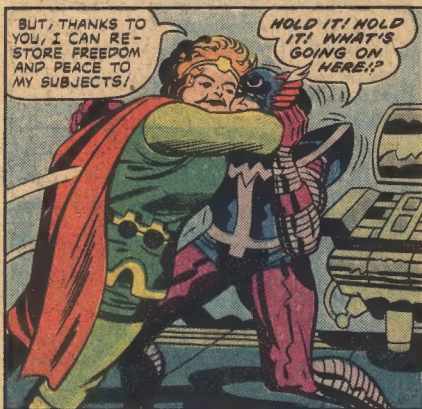
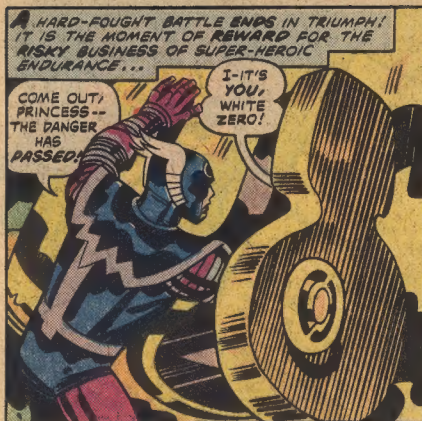
THE WHITE ZERO IS UNABLE TO STOP HIS SLIDE TOWARD THE UNKNOWN! HE IS SHOT LIKE A BULLET THROUGH A MAZE OF PASSAGES WHICH BECKON HIM TO DIE!



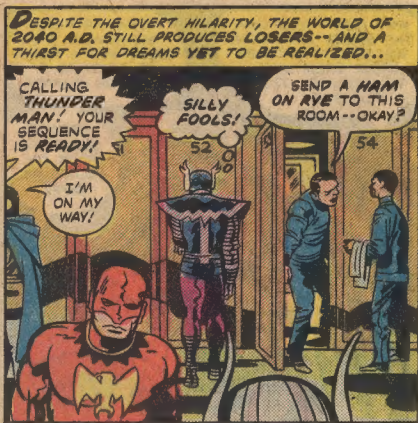
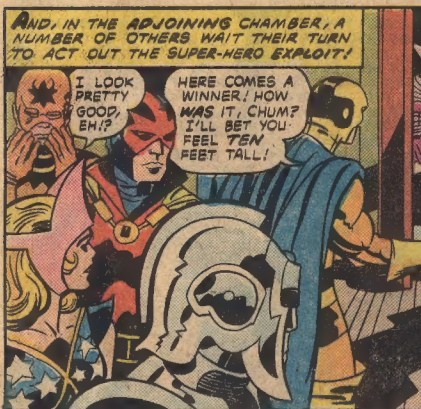
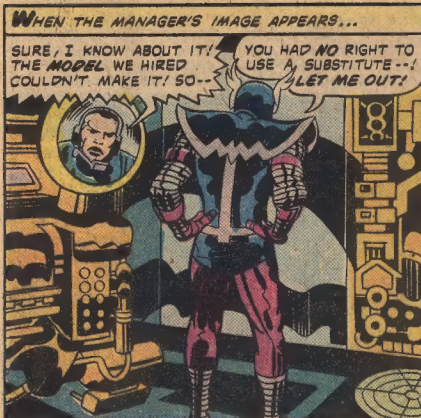






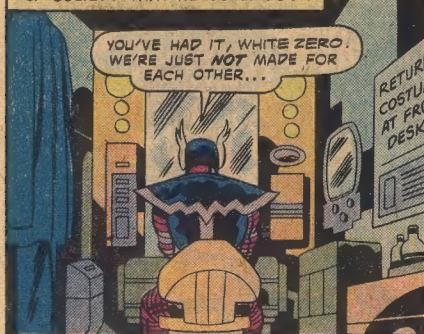




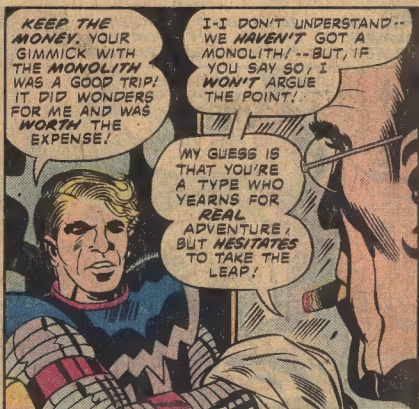
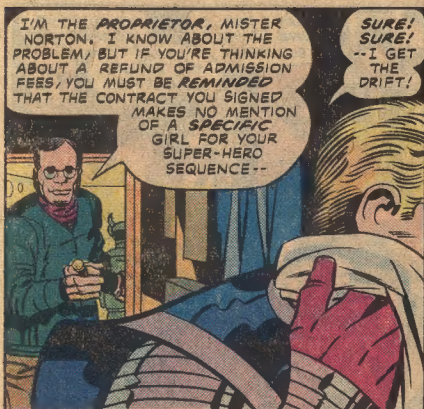
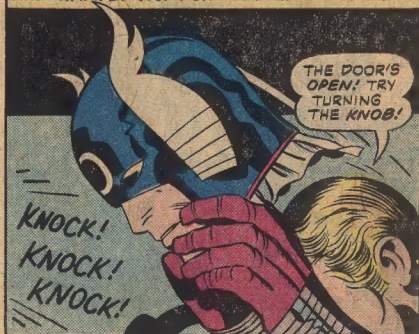




A PREDICTABLE SADNESS OVERTAKES THE WHITE ZERO. IN THE TINY CUBICLE SUPPLIED TO HIM BY THE MANAGEMENT OF COMICSVILLE, HE PREPARES TO RE-ENTER THE SMALLER CORNER OF SOCIETY THAT HE OCCUPIES...



FOR SOME PEOPLE IN THE YEAR 2040 A.D., THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION DOESN'T WORK! WHITE ZERO'S HELMET AND HEROIC FOAM RUBBER FACE ARE REMOVED AS ONE PIECE. REALITY AND HARVEY NORTON HAVE RETURNED...

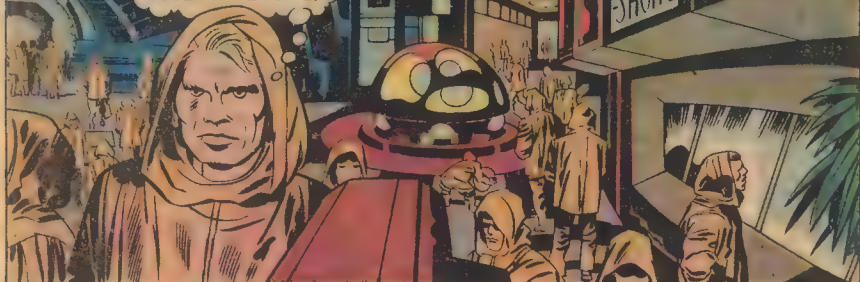




NEW YORK, LIKE ALL LARGE CITIES OF THE YEAR 2040 A.D., IS A VAST COMMUNITY SHELTERED BY AN ASTRODOME. IT IS A GREAT SHOPPING MALL, STRETCHING FOR ENDLESS MILES--AND HARVEY NORTON IS NOW JUST ANOTHER MOTE AMONG THE SHUFFLING MASSES...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT PROMPTED ME TO TAKE A FLING AT THAT LIVE-ACTION HERO MILL!

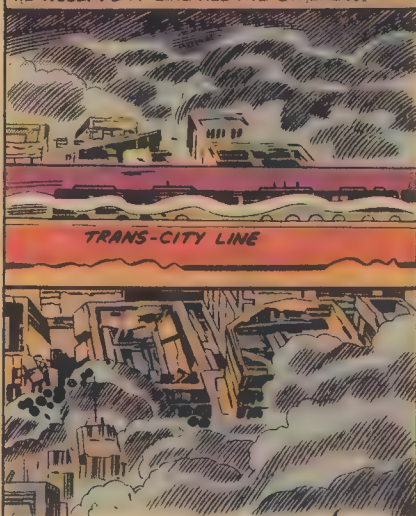
AT ANY RATE, I WASN'T THE ONLY FOOL IN THE PLACE!



THE AUTOMATED SUBWAYS ARE EFFICIENT, AND AS ALWAYS, OVERCROWDED AND OVERUSED. THE AUTOMOBILE HAS BEEN SCRAPPED. ONLY POLITICIANS BUY THE FEW THAT ARE LEFT--AS SYMBOLS OF PRESTIGE...

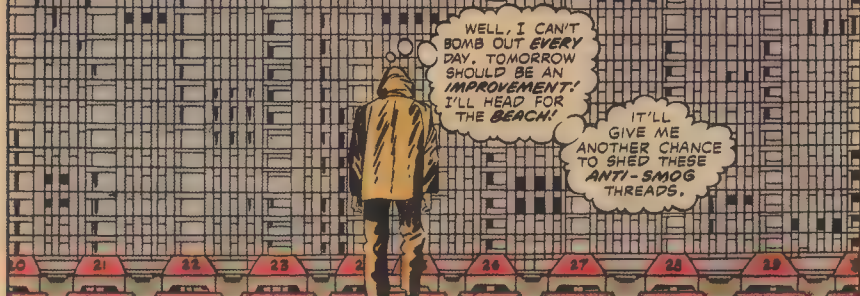


SMOG IS THE MASTER "OUTSIDE". YEARS OF APATHY HAVE ALLOWED IT TO THICKEN UNTIL IT REMAINS TO FOUL THE AIR FOR CENTURIES TO COME. HARVEY SEES IT FROM THE WINDOWS OF HIS TRAIN. HE SEES IT ROTTING THE STRUCTURES IN THE ABANDONED DISTRICTS. HE ACCEPTS IT LIKE ALL THE OTHERS...





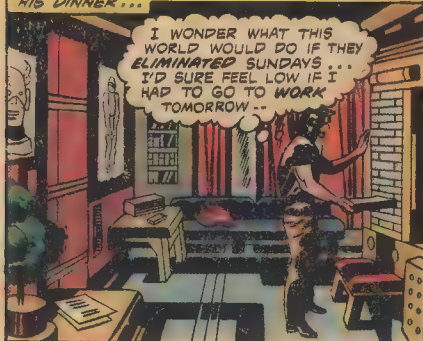
HARVEY FINALLY REACHES THE HOUSING AREA, A MASSIVE COMPLEX IN WHICH MILLIONS LIVE AND PONDER UPON THE DIRECTION OF THEIR LIVES IN A WORLD OF DISTORTED VISIONS...



WELL, I CAN'T BOMB OUT **EVERY** DAY. TOMORROW SHOULD BE AN **IMPROVEMENT!** I'LL HEAD FOR THE **BEACH!**

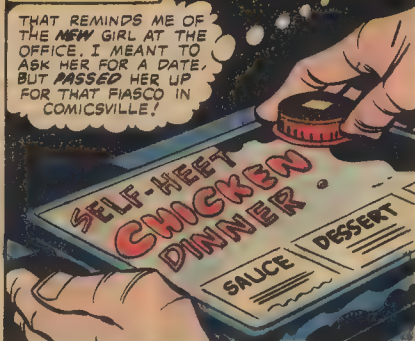
IT'LL GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE TO SHED THESE **ANTI-SMOG** THREADS.

HOME, FOR A SINGLE MAN, IS SMALL BUT COMFORTABLE. HARVEY CHECKS OUT THE ROW OF FOOD IN HIS MINI-MARKET AND CHOOSES HIS DINNER...



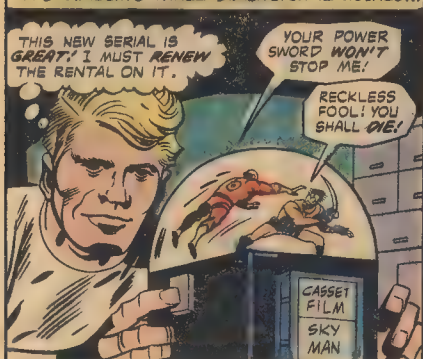
I WONDER WHAT THIS WORLD WOULD DO IF THEY **ELIMINATED** SUNDAYS... I'D SURE FEEL LOW IF I HAD TO GO TO **WORK** TOMORROW...

MEALS ARE COMMERCIALY PLANNED AND HEATED BY DIAL UNITS WHICH ARE PART OF THE PACKAGE...



THAT REMINDS ME OF THE **NEW** GIRL AT THE OFFICE. I MEANT TO ASK HER FOR A DATE, BUT **PASSED** HER UP FOR THAT **FIASCO** IN COMICSVILLE!

HOLOGRAM BOXES ARE THE OFFSPRING OF TELEVISION. CASSETTE FILM IS TRANSLATED INTO AMUSING THREE DIMENSIONAL VISUALS...

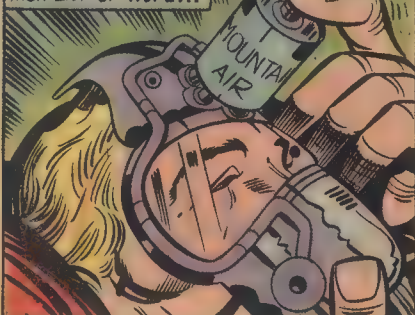


THIS NEW SERIAL IS **GREAT!** I MUST **RENEW** THE RENTAL ON IT.

YOUR POWER SWORD WON'T STOP ME!

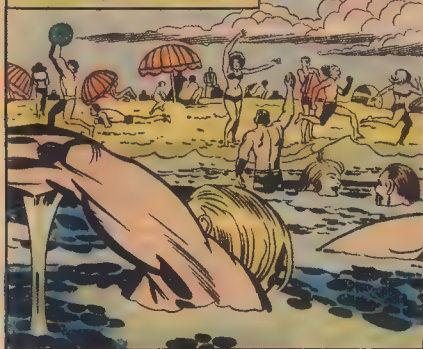
RECKLESS FOOL! YOU SHALL **DIE!**

HARVEY LATER ALLOWS HIMSELF THE LUXURY OF INHALING A CYLINDER OF FRESH AIR, IMPORTED FROM A REMOTE AND UNPOLLUTED REGION. AT FIFTEEN DOLLARS A CAN, IT PROVIDES A BRIEF MOMENT OF HOPE...

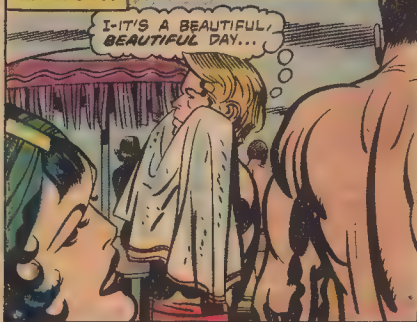




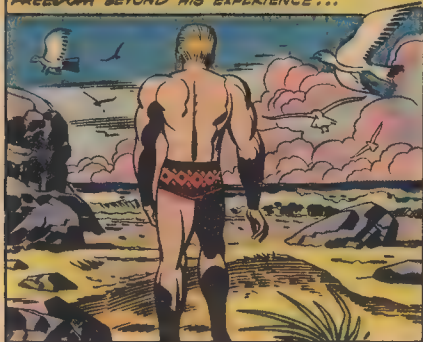
THE FOLLOWING DAY, HARVEY IS AMONG THOSE WHO FLOCK TO THE PUBLIC BEACH ON LONG ISLAND. IT IS INVIGORATING TO SWIM IN THE COOL RECYCLED WATER...



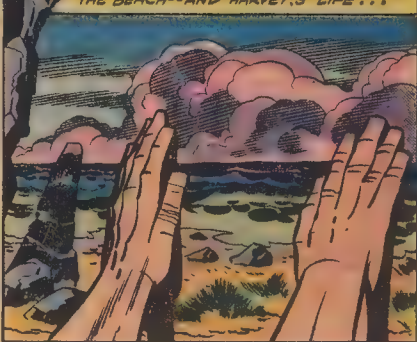
DESPITE THE CROWD, THERE IS A FEELING OF SPACE HERE. THE SKY IS BRIGHT AND UNBOUNDED. SEA BIRDS WHEEL IN THE ENDLESS BLUE. THE CLOUDS ARE IMMACULATE AND HANG LIKE WHITE COTTON ABOVE THE CALM WATERS...



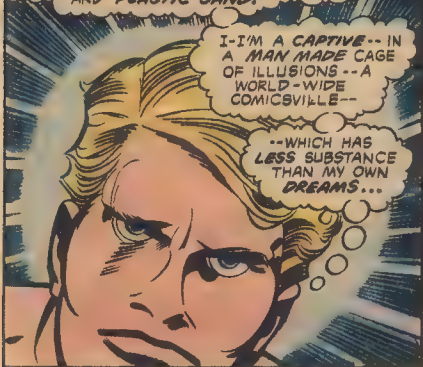
HARVEY WANDERS TO THE FARTHEST EDGE OF THE BEACH. THE HORIZON IS AN OVERWHELMING MARVEL THAT FILLS HIM WITH A SENSE OF FREEDOM BEYOND HIS EXPERIENCE...



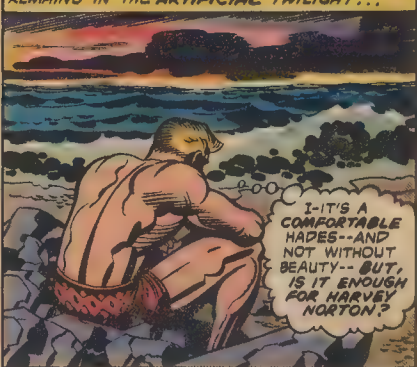
BUT, IT'S ALL A MIRAGE!...JUST ANOTHER HOLOGRAM PROJECTED ON THE LARGE WALLS THAT ENCLOSE THE BEACH--AND HARVEY'S LIFE...



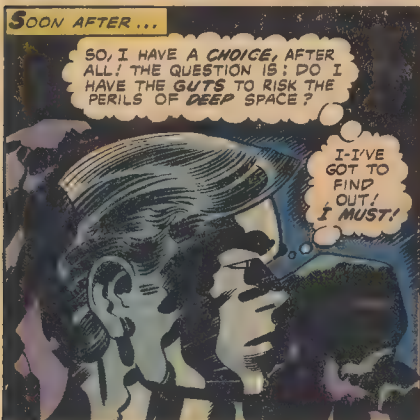
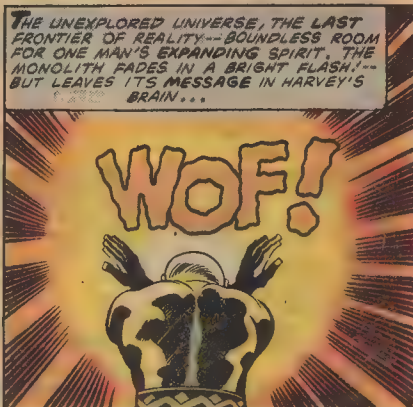
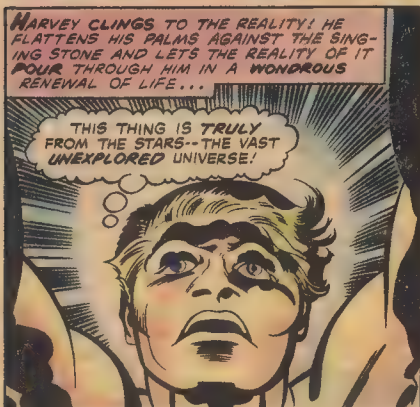
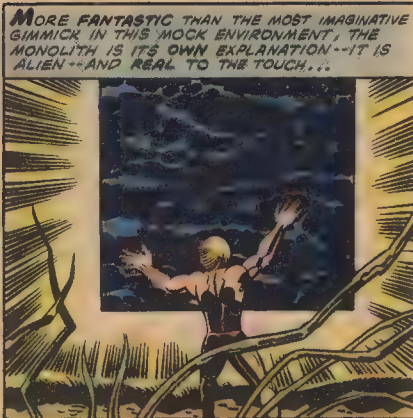
I-IT'S NOT REAL! IT'S FILM AND SOLAR LAMPS! IT'S WAVE MACHINES AND PLASTIC SAND!



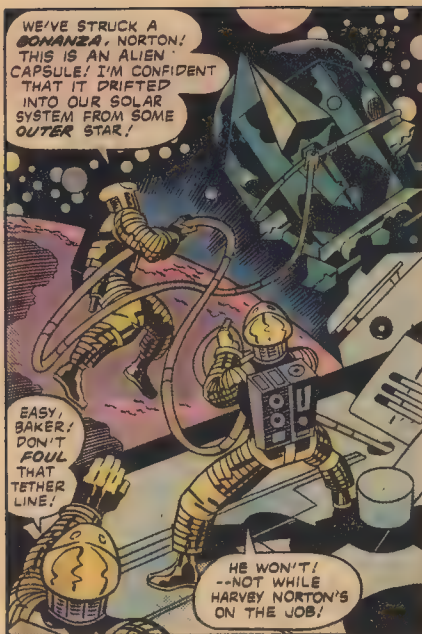
IT IS A TIME FOR LENGTHY REFLECTION. LONG AFTER THE CROWD THINS OUT, HARVEY REMAINS IN THE ARTIFICIAL TWILIGHT...











WE'VE STRUCK A **BOHANZA**, NORTON! THIS IS AN ALIEN CAPSULE! I'M CONFIDENT THAT IT DRIFTED INTO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM FROM SOME **OUTER STAR!**

EASY, BAKER! DON'T FOUL THAT TETHER LINE!

HE WON'T! --NOT WHILE HARVEY NORTON'S ON THE JOB!



YOU HEARD ME, NORTON! STOW YOUR CURIOSITY UNTIL WE CAN EXAMINE IT -- UNDER **CONTROLLED CONDITIONS--**

OKAY, FARRELL, BUT I THINK I SEE A **FACE BENEATH THIS TRANSPARENT PLATE--!!**



WHEN HARVEY SECURES THE OBJECT TO THEIR SPACECRAFT...

THERE'S AN **INSCRIPTION** ON ITS HULL--CARVED IN A LANGUAGE I'VE **NEVER** SEEN ON EARTH!

LET'S GET THAT THING **INSIDE** THE SHIP FOR **ANALYSIS!**

DON'T TAMPER WITH IT!

DON'T TOUCH IT!



**NO SIREN CALL EVER DREW ANY MAN AS STRONGLY AS THIS STRANGELY MOLDED METAL CONTAINER.** NORTON ATTRIBUTES IT TO HIS FASCINATION WITH THE UNKNOWN. STILL, HE OBEYS ORDERS AND HELPS TO GET THE WORK DONE...

WE'LL LOWER IT INTO HATCH FOUR. THE ANALYSIS CHAMBER IS **NEARBY--**

LET'S MOVE IT!



AN HOUR LATER...

THERE'S NO MISTAKING THE COMPUTER "READ-OUT"! IT'S **ORGANIC, ALIVE**, AND BREATHES OUR AIR. X-RAYS WON'T PENETRATE THE CAPSULE. PERHAPS A SONAR TECHNIQUE WOULD--

UNTIL WE GET A PICTURE OF WHAT THAT THING **LOOKS** LIKE--I'M PREPARED TO FLOOD THE CHAMBER WITH **CYANIDE GAS!**

HOLD IT, HIT MAN! THE CAPSULE'S **OPENING!** WE MAY GET TO MEET OUR **VISITOR**, AFTER ALL!



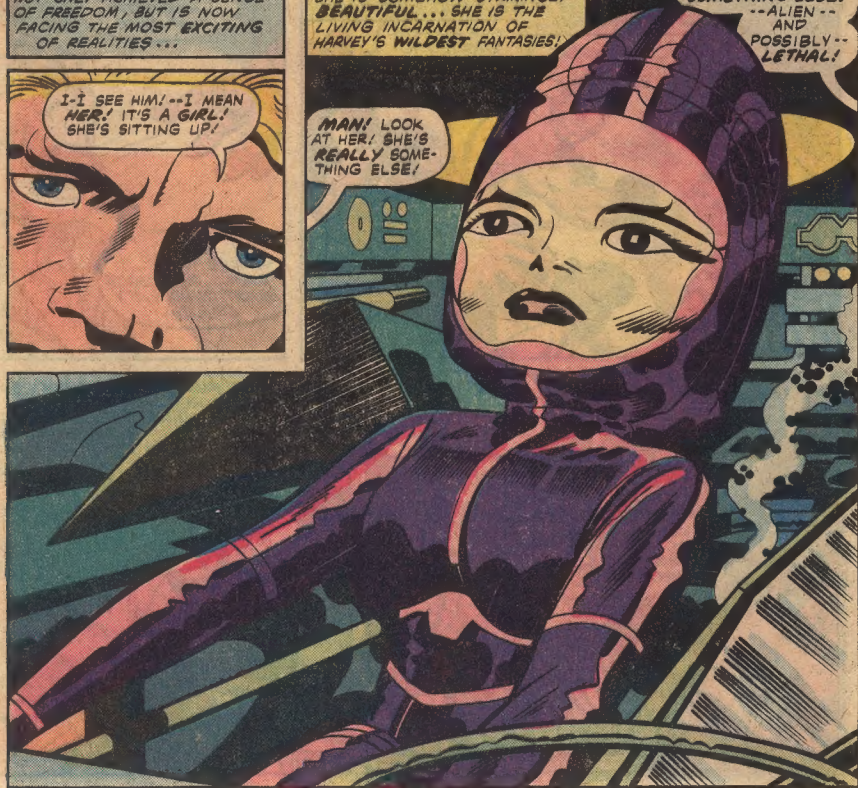
HARVEY NORTON'S CAREER IN SPACE IS **PAYING OFF!** HE HAS NOT ONLY ACHIEVED A SENSE OF FREEDOM, BUT IS NOW FACING THE MOST EXCITING OF REALITIES...

THE CAPSULE'S OCCUPANT IS **STRANGE TO BEHOLD**, BUT SHE IS SOMEHOW **STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL**... SHE IS THE LIVING INCARNATION OF HARVEY'S **WILDEST FANTASIES!**

REMEMBER THAT, NORTON! SHE'S **SOMETHING ELSE!** --ALIEN-- AND POSSIBLY--**LETHAL!**

I-I SEE HIM!--I MEAN **HER!** IT'S A **GIRL!** SHE'S SITTING UP!

**MAN!** LOOK AT HER! SHE'S **REALLY** SOMETHING ELSE!





AT THAT MOMENT, THE FIRST SHOCK STRIKES THE SPACECRAFT AND SENDS THE ASTRONAUTS REELING OFF BALANCE...

LOOK OUT--!!

WHAM!

W-WHAT'S THAT?!

THE SECOND SHOCK SEEMS TO SHAKE LOOSE EVERY NUT, BOLT, AND RIVET IN THE SHIP!

BLAMM!

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

B-BUT WHO'S THE ENEMY?!

EVEN AS THE VESSEL IS ROCKED BY THE THIRD HAMMER-BLOW, NORTON SCRAMBLES TO REACH THE OBSERVATION BLISTER...

CRASH!!

STAND BY THE WEAPONS SYSTEM, FELLAS! I'LL GET A FIX ON THE OPPOSITION!

HARVEY'S FEARS ARE SOMEHOW SUPPRESSED BY A FEELING OF SHARP ANTICIPATION. THESE EVENTS HAVE SUPPLIED THE ELEMENT SO SORELY LACKING IN HIS LIFE...

THE FIRING HAS STOPPED! I-I GUESS IT WAS A SHOW OF POWER, INSTEAD OF AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY US!

NO TECHNICAL MIRACLE IN COMICSVILLE CAN SURPASS THE OVERWHELMING SIGHT OF THE ALIEN SPACE GIANT. MORE THAN A MAJESTIC BATTLE CRAFT, IT'S THE VERY PROMISE OF A SUPER-EXPERIENCE WHICH ANY MAN WOULD GLADLY RISK HIS LIFE TO SHARE...

WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW CAN ONLY FULFILL MY DESTINY!

WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW WILL THRILL US ALL!!

COME ALONG FOR THE WILDEST ODYSSEY YET!

THE CLIMAX IS A SPACE-OUT!

NEXT:

INTER-GALACTICA



# MONOLITH MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Jack,

Whatever weaknesses the first issue of 2001 had, were more than made up for by your marvelous flights of fantasy and brilliant visuals. The action was good, the weirdness weird, and the various effects really impressive. The strength and contrast of pages 23-30 were the highlight of the book for me, and led perfectly to the climax and the appearance of the New Seed. The drama, excitement, and mythic implications of the story rank it with the best of your creations, in the grand tradition of the Silver Surfer and Galactus, and TALES OF ASGARD. You really belong to Marvel—only Marvel has such a tradition of myth, grandeur, and the Cosmic Zap.

What were the weaknesses of the issue? Only that you couldn't flow freely in somebody else's plot and had to put too much into one issue. I'm looking forward to your wholly original plots and myths in issues to come. In issue #1, your visions clashed with Clarke's—you're just too creative, that's your trouble.

I wish we all had your trouble!

Gerald Jones  
1250 San Miguel St.  
Gilroy, CA 95020

Dear Jack,

I like the *feel* of 2001. But why no recurring characters? That was what piqued my curiosity most when I got issue #1. This method almost makes the book an anthology comic like WEIRD WONDER TALES, with the Monolith serving as host for the issue.

How about following the seeds? One to Earth, one to the Kree galaxy? How about a guest-shot by the Watcher or other Marvel characters? How about showing those scientists we've already seen, still trying to figure out what's up with the Monolith?

And who *did* set up the Monoliths? Are they dead now? Are they merely energy? Are they the Monoliths themselves? Does all of this relate to the Eternals? There is a distinct similarity. The title only insists that it happen in space and at least partly in that year.

Also, I've seen what a gorgeous job you have done on Dr. Strange, the Vision, Moondragon, and Iron Man; is there any possibility of your doing some stories with them—either as guest-shots in your books or as efforts in other books?

Plus, I understand that you're brilliantly fast—something like three or four days to do a fill-in issue. Would the public ever be so lucky as to someday have you as permanent Deadline Doom Avoider?

Dana A. Snow  
430 South Burnside Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Actually, Dana, your final suggestion is nothing short of a stroke of sheer genius—except for a few unfortunate facts. Jack no longer lives near New York City, as he did in the old days, and therefore added onto his rapid speed output must be the somewhat less than rapid (or reliable) U.S. Postal Service delivery from the West Coast. Otherwise, we'd jump at the idea!

As for your other suggestions...well, we get the hint. The possibilities are indeed infinite—but exactly what will happen is more properly revealed in the actual pages of the stories than here on the letters page in advance. Keep watchin'!

Dear Jack,

I've just finished reading the second issue of 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY. It was fantastic! I loved the story, and the art is really true comic art, the kind that has always been the greatest, especially for this kind of comic.

I read issue #1, not knowing a thing about the story. I didn't know what was going on. The next day, I saw the movie for the first time: then I read the comic again, and fully understood it, finally realizing how great it was.

However, I'm hoping #3 doesn't end like the first two. I suggest having different endings. Keep those giant pictures on pages two and three, and good luck on your new BLACK PANTHER series—you've made him my favorite comics character (besides Ikaris)!

Sam Powell  
350 East 31st St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Dear Jack,

Upon hearing of the appearance of a 2001, my first reaction was: "It's going to be a piece of trash. They're going to take a great film and turn it into a stupid comic book." How wrong I was. The first issue of 2001 was a completely logical extension of Kubrick's film: the man-apes have evolved into cave-men, with the Monolith still guiding them. (A technical error: the Monolith did not float in the air in the film or the book.) The first issue is perfectly balanced between the past and the future. Pages 18 and 19 were really vintage Kirby. If every panel in the Treasury Edition adaptation was as carefully drawn and inked as those pages were, the adaptation would have been equal to the film.

But what was the Monolith doing on that asteroid with the ruins of that civilization? I suspect that Kirby is hinting that the race that constructed the Monoliths is now dead, and their experiment lives on. I had thought a possible plotline for the book might be the sending of *another* team of astronauts on Discovery II to find out what happened to the first mission. Since the Star-Child returned to Earth at the end of the film and the book and the adaptation, the crew of Discovery II could be sent in search of the Star-Child to determine exactly what it is. It's good to see that the business of "chapters" has been eliminated. Please try to use a good number of collages in 2001, since they looked so fantastic in the Treasury Edition. If this book is carefully drawn, and most of all, carefully *written*, it could turn out to be the best book on the stands.

Bobby Bryant  
344 Law St.  
Darlington, SC 29532

The floating Monolith was not a "technical error," Bobby, but rather artistic liberty. Since comics as a medium has neither a subtle soundtrack (other than the occasional, unsubtle BAM! or DAK-KOOM!) nor the advantage of moving images, we occasionally take liberties to enhance the visual excitement and dramatics. It's not an accident, but a careful decision made to ease the adaptation from cinema to comics. We're glad you liked King Kirby's comic efforts, though, and we can guarantee there're certainly some surprises to come!

Some of those surprises will be unfolding in just thirty days. We'll be here...the Monolith will be here...and we hope you'll be here, too.

'Nuff said.



# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

scanned by \*Wizard\*

